Telecast of cricket matches by DD

149. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that DD could not get right to telecast live the first cricket test at Lahore, Pakistan in January, 2006;

(b) if so, the reason therefor; and

(c) the action taken to resolve the issue and success achieved?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Doordarshan did not undertake the live telecast of the test matches of the Indo-Pak series played in Pakistan since the rights holder did not argee to the simulcast of these matches by Doordarshan.

Functioning of DD Centres in Andhra Pradesh

150. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Doordarshan studios presently functioning in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether any new Doordarshan Studio is being planned in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is also proposed to open more Doordarshan and FM Studios in the State;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) Three Doordarshan Studios at Hyderabad, Warangal and Vijaywada are presently functioning and one new Studio Centre at Tirupati is being planned in the State.

(d) to (f) There is no proposal of opening new studio centres of Doordarshan in the state in view of the current availability of resources.

As regards FM Studios, four new FM Radio stations at Kakinada (10 kW Tr. with studio), Karimnagar (5 kW Tr.), (Srikakulam (1 kW Tr.) and Nellore (10 kW Tr.) have been proposed in the State during the 10th Plan. In addition, 10 kW FM Tr. at Suryapet and Mehboobnagar have been proposed but are yet not approved. Also, a radio station with 3 kW FM Tr. and studio is technically ready at Macherla but awaiting staff sanction. However, implementation of the above schemes is subject to approval, funds availability and sanction of Operation & Maintenance staff by the competent authority.

Losses by Prasar Bharati

151. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Prasar Bharati has been losing around 1,200 crore rupees annually;

(b) whether inspite of this fact the cash-starved Prasar Bharati propose to add new channels;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action plan of Government to revamp and streamline its working to control its unabated losses?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (d) No, Sir. The role of Prasar Bharati is different from other private broadcaster and earning of commercial revenue is not primary objective but is only incidental to its activities. The earnings of Prasar Bharati are taken as a whole and are accounted for centrally. Prasar Bharati by the very nature of its mandate as public broadcaster, is to reach every nook and corner of the country irrespective of commercial viability. Various channels of Prasar Bharati are engaged in enrichment of diverse culture of India. These channels are operated with the budgetary support of the Government. A ten member Committee headed by Secretary, I&B has been constituted on 30th March, 2005 to suggest a viable capital and financial structure for Prasar Bharati to strengthen its functioning. The committee is yet to submit its final report.